

Message Text

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USIA FOR ICS/DP MCHALE-PASS LABOR DEPT (I/LAB)

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: LABOR SEMINAR

SUMMARY: USIS-SUPPORTED LABOR SEMINAR ON "U.S. LABOR
MOVEMENT IN AMERICAN LIFE" WAS HELD IN LARVIK, DECEMBER 4-5.
TWENTY-SIX LEADING LABOR UNION AND LABOR EDUCATION OFFICIALS
FROM NORWAY'S TELEMAR AND VESTFOLD REGIONS PARTICIPATED.

PROGRAM: TWENTY-SIX LEADERS FROM SIX MAJOR UNIONS, REPRESENT-
ING IMPORTANT FIRMS IN THE STEEL, SHIPBUILDING, ELECTRICAL,
ALUMINUM AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES IN THE TELEMAR-VESTFOLD
INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, APRTICIPATED IN TWO-DAY LABOR SEMINAR
AT LARVIK, OCTOBER 4-5. HARALD OLSEN, LO DISTRICT SECRETARY,
PORSGRUM, AND THE TELEMAR AND VESTFOLD LO HOSTED THE
SEMINAR, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM USIS.
THE LOCAL WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION(AOF) ALSO
ASSISTED WITH ARRANGEMENTS, AND THE REGIONAL LABOR
PRESS, INCLUDING VETERAN LABOR PARTY LEADER ALF SKAUM,
EDITOR, TELEMAR ARBEIDERBLAD, ALSO TOOK PART.

THE THEME OF THE SEMINAR WAS "U.S. LABOR MOVEMENT IN
AMERICAN LIFE." EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE INTRODUCED THIS
SUBJECT WITH A SPEECH ON THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN
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LABOR MOVEMENT, FOLLOWED BY A DESCRIPTION OF THE ROLE

OF AMERICAN UNIONS IN POLITICS. THE DISCUSSION WAS AUGMENTED BY A SHOWING OF THE FILM "THE INHERITANCE," WHICH AS ALWAYS WAS WELL RECEIVED. THE LATTER SUBJECT WAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE PARTICIPANTS, WHO, LIKE OTHER EUROPEAN UNIONISTS, REMAIN CURIOUS ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF A LABOR OR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN THE U.S. THE EMBASSY'S FSL LABOR SPECIALIST SPOKE TO THE SEMINAR ON THE U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AND ON AMERICAN WAGE POLICY.

COMMENT: THE LARVIK SEMINAR WAS ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF SUCCESSFUL SEMINARS CONDUCTED BY USIS/LABOR ATTACHE IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL NORWEGIAN LO DISTRICT OFFICERS. THE LOCAL LO SELECTED EXCELLENT PARTICIPANTS WHO SHOWED A KEEN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT DISCUSSED AND TOOK A LIVELY PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS. THIS TYPE OF PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BE EXTREMELY USEFUL TO THE EMBASSY AND THE LABOR ATTACHE IS ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH NORWEGIAN LOCAL LEADERS IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY. SEVERAL MORE SEMINARS ARE PLANNED FOR 1977, THE NEXT DUE TO TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY IN SARPSBORG, OSTFOLD. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ENHANCE THE COMING SEMINARS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF VISITING AMERICAN EXPERTS IN THE LABOR/LABOR-MANAGEMENT FIELD.

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